The Practical Anti-Fascist's

FIELD GUIDE

to

POLICE TACTICS & WEAPONS

for

SAFER PROTEST

and

EFFECTIVE ACTION

2025 Edition

by the green M&M ~

“ Laws are threats made by the dominant socioeconomic-ethnic group in a given nation.

It’s just the promise of violence that’s enacted and the police are basically an occupying army.

You know what I mean? ”

- Brennan Lee Mulligan

“ Conservatism consists of exactly one proposition, to wit:

There must be in-groups whom the law protects but does not bind, alongside out-groups whom the law binds but does not protect. ”

- Frank Wilhoit
(the composer, not the political scientist)

Section I

SURVEILLANCE & SOFT POWER

As of 2025, oppressive regimes are moving further into the new frontier of **mass surveillance** and **predictive policing. *Real life RoboCop, Skynet shit.***

Companies like Palantir and Boeing sell their services to the **US and Israel,** and **their algorithms predict which journalists to kill** and **which civilian homes to bomb** to find the next "Hamas officer."

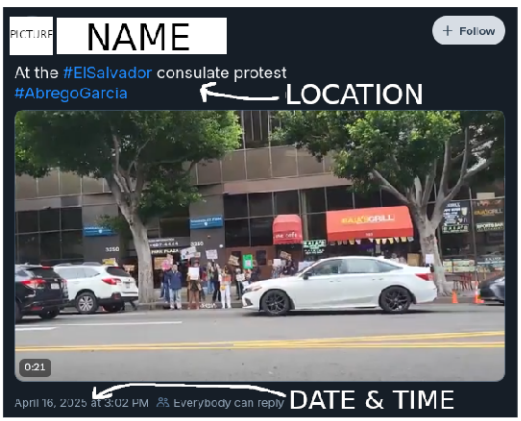
The Patriot Act was child's play compared to this.

*We **must** operate under the assumption that this administration is using **every tool** at its disposal to **quell dissent** and **target protesters.** This section focuses on the ways we can **reduce our digital footprints** and **limit** the amount of **information** we pour into these systems.*

SOCIAL MEDIA

The internet is the single biggest collection of personal information on the planet, and adversaries have been capable of farming that data for **decades.**

- **Do not post on your personal social media about protests you're attending.**
- **Do not post pictures or videos of protests without blurring out peoples' faces**



People are routinely **arrested weeks after a protest** because their face showed up on someone's social media post about that protest.

Before posting **anything** online, **anywhere** (even on LinkedIn,) ask yourself:

- *Would I feel comfortable getting this tattooed on myself?*
- *Would I feel comfortable giving a file with this information on it to the federal government?*

FACIAL RECOGNITION

Modern facial recognition technology can match faces to **images posted across the entire internet,** including social media and company photos, thanks to products like **Clearview AI.**

Adversaries can **scan faces found in video footage** from CCTV cameras, Ring doorbells, and social media to determine who attended which protests at what time. Identified protesters can then be **targeted for later harassment by police or federal law enforcement.**

Police also maintain a **tattoo database** that can be used to automatically identify people based on tattoos in pictures. Lastly, **drones** can be used to follow protesters or **get close-up pictures** of their faces for later identification.

- **Wear a mask when protesting,** even at peaceful protests and even if you don't intend on breaking any laws. As a bonus, you'll also minimize spread of diseases and keep other, immunocompromised protesters safer.
- **Cover any tattoos** with makeup or clothing. **Cover your hair** with a baseball cap, headscarf, or hoodie.
- **Avoid wearing distinctive clothing** that you normally wear in your day-to-day life.

Scan this QR code for more info on AI-enabled facial recognition

LICENSE PLATE READERS

Many major intersections, toll roads, and highways are equipped with **license plate readers** that **automatically log your license plate number** every time you drive past them. Some **police cars** are also equipped with **mobile license plate readers** that can log the license plates of **any car that passes by them.**

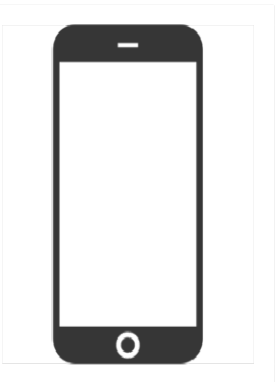
These logs can be used to track your movements **every time you drive.**

Because your **license plate can easily be tied to you**, your car (if you own one) is a very easy way to track your movements.

If at all possible, try to **walk or bike** to a protest. If walking or biking isn't an option, **carpool with a designated driver** who drops you off and picks you up.

Public transportation is usually a solid choice if available, especially if you're able to **pay with cash.**

GEOFENCING & PHONES



All cell phones and other devices with a cellular data connection (some smartwatches, tablets) **constantly ping nearby cell towers to get signal.**

This process **leaves a record on cell towers** in the area, and police can later **request records from cell towers near a protest** to learn whose cell phones were nearby at the time of the protest.

- **DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES TO PROTESTS.** They represent a huge risk to your privacy and safety, and if you are arrested, they are a *goldmine* for police.

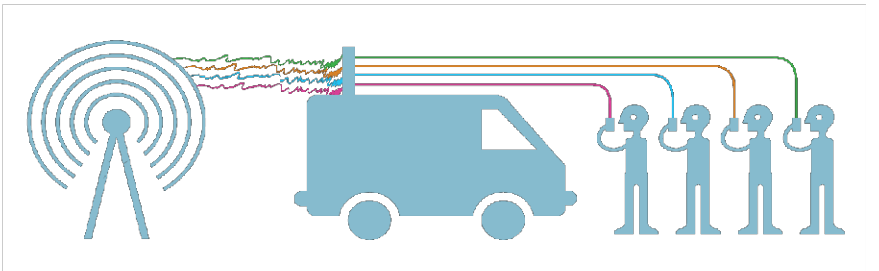
- **Many** social media, insurance, and banking apps gather your location data **constantly, even if your phone is in airplane mode.** This data can be requested by police to tie you to a protest.

Wait, but I need my phone! **No you fucking don't.**

- *How will I stay safe without a phone?* **Bring a friend, preferably multiple, and stay together. Don't protest alone.**

- *I need my phone to pay for stuff!* **Use cash if possible. Electronic payments feed massive amounts of data into global surveillance systems.**

STINGRAYS



IMSI catchers , or **StingRays,** are surveillance devices that pretend to be a cell tower. Your phone, **searching for signal, connects to one** automatically and shares some information. That information is used by the device to **track your location data** and **spy on your cellular communications.**

This all happens automatically, without your knowledge, **simply by being near the device.** If used at a protest, they can easily track **every person with a phone who attends.**

IMSI catchers have been deployed by law enforcement in dozens of countries, and their use is **kept secret.** They are used in the US by **Customs** and **ICE** to **illegally track journalists and immigration advocates.**

Again: **do not bring your cell phone anywhere you want to avoid being tracked, including to protests.**

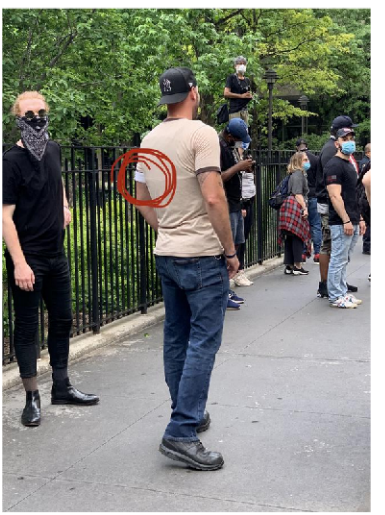
Scan this QR code
for more info on
ICE using IMSI catchers

AGENTS PROVOCATEURS

Bad actors will often embed themselves in peaceful protests to **start fights** and de-legitimize the movement.

If your movement is committed to peaceful protest, **do not engage with provocateurs. Call out their presence** so others don't engage with them and to keep everyone safe.

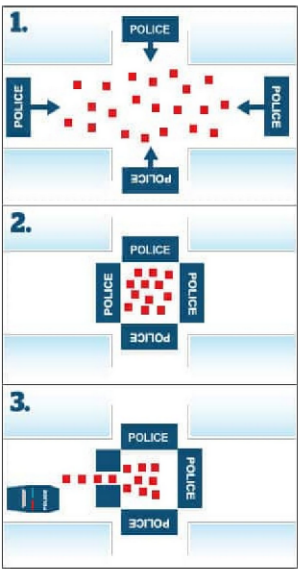
Police will also sometimes embed themselves in protests and **ask people questions** while **pretending to be protesters** themselves. They can usually be identified by a few characteristics.



- The **outline of a bulletproof vest** under their shirt.
- **A distinct piece of colored clothing**, like an armband or baseball cap, that's **shared with a few other similar people in the crowd.** Undercover cops use these to identify each other at protests.
- The **imprint of handcuffs** in one of their pockets.
- **Dad shoes** or **tennis shoes.**
- The **general white supremacist vibe** they tend to give off.

Scan this QR code for more info on cops infiltrating protests

KETTLING



Police use crowd control techniques to **surround groups of protesters, concentrate them** in a small area, and then either **arrest** everyone inside the police line or allow people to leave slowly, **killing the momentum of the protest.**

This is called **kettling** or corralling and has a nasty side effect of **ensnaring bystanders and journalists** who happen to be caught in the cordon.

In the US, UK, and Israel, police have maintained kettles for **hours** as an intimidation tactic, without letting protesters leave to use the toilet or go home. **If you are stuck in a kettle, remain nonviolent.** Any violence may result in the entire kettle being attacked by police with tear gas or rubber bullets.

If you see police attempting to encircle your protest, **warn others**. If you are marching, **look ahead** and **do not march into an area police have surrounded.** Some protests have volunteer protest marshals that wear hi-viz, fluorescent vests – **let them know immediately** if you think cops are attempting a kettle.

Protests are most vulnerable to being kettled on **narrow city streets** or **downtown areas.**

The best defense against kettling is **being aware of your surroundings** and **communicating with your protest neighbors.**

Scan this QR code for more info on kettling

FUTURE TECHNIQUES

As we speak, new methods of mass surveillance are being pioneered.

- **Gait analysis** trains an AI model on video of your specific walk and then uses your **"walking fingerprint"** to identify you in unrelated footage, **even if you're fully masked, covered up or have your back turned,** with a **94% accuracy rate.** The Chinese government has deployed this technology against its **Uyghur Muslim minority** and we will undoubtedly see it used in the US, if it isn't already.
- The company **Palantir** is actively building a massive, central, AI-powered database of data on **every single person in the US** by exploiting government data through **DOGE**, collecting data through mass surveillance in countries like **Israel**, and by combing through the entire internet. This database has the stated aim of being able to **mark people as potential criminals or terrorists**, before any crime even occurs.

We're still not sure how to fight these threats. The best thing you can do to protect yourself against future threats is to put **as little personal information into online, digital systems as possible.**

Scan this QR code for more info on how Palantir enables hi-tech global surveillance

Section II

WEAPONS OF MASS OPPRESSION

- Physical Weapons -

"FAKE" BULLETS

The single greatest lie in policing is the existence of "non-lethal" weapons. Almost every non-lethal weapon is actually just **less-lethal**, and **numerous people have been seriously hurt or killed by "safe, non-lethal" weapons** like tasers and tear gas.

"Non-lethal" as a descriptor is used by police to **justify indiscriminate usage of deadly weapons on peaceful protesters.**

When you hear "rubber bullet," focus on the **bullet** part, *not* the rubber part. Police forces want you to think they're using NERF guns on protesters. **They're not.**

CHARACTERISTICS

Baton rounds are a general category containing all projectiles shot from guns that are meant to **impact** rather than **penetrate.** They **sound almost identical** to regular bullets when shot from a gun and are propelled by the **same gunpowder.**

Most baton rounds still contain significant mass and are made from heavy materials. While intended to be shot indirectly at their targets, at extremeties or at distance, **many police forces abuse them by aiming directly at the head at close distance.**

Baton rounds almost always have harmless-sounding names that mask their deadliness, so to be clear: **every weapon mentioned here has killed people.**

- **Rubber** and **plastic bullets** are **mostly made of metal** and either have a rubber/plastic coating or are made of metal *mixed* with rubber/plastic. There are versions for rifles and shotguns and larger versions for grenade launchers, and all versions cause **severe physical trauma.**
- **Sponge grenades** are made from **high-density, heavy plastic** coated in foam. They are shot from grenade launchers and can **break bones** and cause **traumatic brain injury.** They are one of the most commonly-deployed less-lethal weapons internationally.

- **Bean bag rounds** are made of **lead birdshot** encased in a bean bag. They are shot from shotguns and have **the same kinetic energy as a regular shell.** They have previously caused **internal bleeding, ruptured eyeballs,** and **traumatic brain injury.**

COUNTERMEASURES

Guns with baton rounds **are still guns,** and the police using them do not care for your safety. In general, **if you are being shot at, seek cover and leave the area immediately.**

In a pinch, **riot shields** or improvised shields like **pot lids** can protect your head, but **be aware of ricochet,** especially if you are behind other, unprotected protesters.

Scan this QR code for statistics on injuries and deaths from baton rounds

- Physical Weapons -

HYDRO CANNONS

Water cannons shoot **massive volumes of water** extremely **quickly** over a **long range.** Originally developed for firefighting and hydraulic mining, they have been (mis)used as crowd control weapons dating back to the Civil Rights era. Their modern use includes **delivering chemical weapons over long range** and **marking protesters for arrest.**

Water cannons have seen plenty of use in **Israel**, where they are used extensively to quell **pro-Palestinian** and **anti-war** protests.

On several occasions in 2023, the Israel Police broke procedure by firing water cannons **directly at protesters' heads**, causing severe eye damage in several of the victims.

CHARACTERISTICS

Water cannons are **more dangerous than they appear, especially up close.** The water carries enough kinetic energy to **tear clothing** and **knock people down**. People have been **permanently blinded** by cops using water cannons to target protesters' faces.

Additives can be added to the water shot by water cannons, which make them even more dangerous:

- **Colored dyes,** historically pink or blue, have been used in the past to mark protesters for later arrest, including during the **2019-2020 Hong Kong anti-extradition protests.**
- **Pepper spray solution** and **tear gas** can also be shot from a water cannon.
- **Skunk**, a chemical weapon produced and sold by Israel with an extremely powerful, unpleasant odor, is typically shot from water cannons.

APPEARANCE

Water cannons are almost always vehicle-mounted, typically on **armored vehicles**. They resemble **turrets, with a long barrel** that shoots water. Many water cannon vehicles have **multiple water cannons** mounted on them, and each can be **aimed independently.**

COUNTERMEASURES

- The best countermeasure to a water cannon is **keeping your distance.** The effective range of a water cannon about **40 meters (~130 feet).** Past that, the kinetic energy carried by the water drops off rapidly.
- **Physical shields** like **pot lids** or **umbrellas** can help protect yourself from water cannons with dangerous additives, but **only at a distance.** An umbrella will **not** help you if you are **caught in close range** to a water cannon.

Scan this QR code for more info on how water cannons are used today

- Chemical Weapons -

RIOT CONTROL AGENTS

Although **banned for use in warfare** by international treaty, chemical weapons like **tear gas and pepper spray** are commonly used to put down protests and civil unrest.

Despite treaties, tear gas is currently being used by the **Russian military** against **Ukraine.** An estimated **16,000 cans** of tear gas were also shot at protesters during the **2019-2020 Hong Kong anti-extradition protests**.

CHARACTERISTICS

Tear gas is a **severe irritant** that works on the eyes, lungs, and skin. Depending on the specific gas used, it causes serious **respiratory distress**, **skin irritation**, and **chemical burns**. Long-term effects include **endocrine disruptions** and **menstrual changes.** In large enough doses, in enclosed spaces, or around asthmatic people, **tear gas can kill.**

Most tear gas is actually **powder suspended in aerosol, closer to smoke than gas.** This powder can stick to clothing and hair.

There are several different tear gases, including pepper sprays like **OC gas** and **PAVA spray**. The most commonly used tear gasses are **CS gas** and **CN gas.**

Expired tear gas **breaks down into more harmful chemicals** including **cyanide and phosgenes,** and police (including in Hong Kong) have used expired tear gas in the past.

APPEARANCE

The quickest way to identify the kind of gas being used is to check for markings on a spent canister. Not all canisters carry markings, but most will.

COUNTERMEASURES

- If possible, leave the area and get to higher ground.
- If you are exposed to tear gas, **do not rub your eyes or touch your face** except to **remove contact lenses.**
- The best way to protect against tear gas is to wear a respirator with **organic vapor cartridge filters. Half-face respirators** are easiest to find and should be paired with **goggles** to protect the eyes. **Shave any facial hair** to ensure the respirator has a **proper seal.**
- **CS gas** can be deactivated with **antacid tablets or baking soda dissolved in water.**
- **CN gas** can be washed away with soap and water.
- **Plastic cling wrap and gloves** can cover exposed skin and prevent irritation.
- **Traffic cones** can be placed over tear gas grenades, and **pouring water down the cone** can deactivate the grenade.
- **Leaf blowers** can be effective at redirecting gas away from protesters and journalists.

Scan this QR code for more info on long term effects of tear gas

- Energy Weapons -

VOICE OF GOD

The **Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)** is a high-powered loudspeaker system. They are also called **sound cannons** or **AHDs.** Initially intended for long-distance communications, LRADs have since been used by oppressive governments the world over as a “less-lethal” crowd control weapon.

The **Mosquito** is an alternate version of the LRAD that focuses on higher pitched sound that is painful to young people but inaudible to older people. These are being used today to specifically target younger protesters and college students.

An LRAD was recently deployed against peaceful protesters in **Serbia** on **March 15, 2025,** nearly causing a stampede as thousands of protesters immediately attempted to flee in panic.

CHARACTERISTICS

LRADs can produce sounds one hundred times **louder than a jet engine** – loud enough to cause immediate **pain, nausea, disorientation, vomiting, and hearing loss.**

LRADs use **hypersonic sound** that travels differently to normal sound. Powerful, modulated ultrasound is transmitted in a tight beam that is demodulated as it passes through your body.

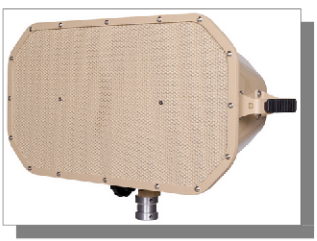
In other words, your skull **becomes** the speaker. Covering your ears will **not** fully protect you from an LRAD.

APPEARANCE

LRADs look like large speakers. Less powerful units are smaller and usually rectangular. The most powerful LRADs are circular and resemble spotlights with mesh covers.

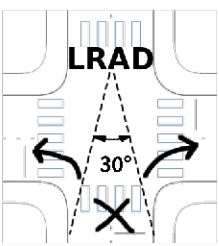
LRADs can be **physically held by police**, **free-standing on tripods,** or **mounted onto vehicles.**

If you see a large LRAD being aimed at you, **LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID PERMANENT HEARING DAMAGE.**



COUNTERMEASURES

- If you are being targeted by an active LRAD, **move off to the side** relative to its position.
    - **Duck into side streets** if possible. LRADs transmit the strongest sound in a **narrow beam,** ~30 degrees wide.



- **Earplugs** can provide **some** protection against weaker LRADs.
- **Cardboard or paper protest signs** can partially reflect sound from an LRAD if held in front of your head.

Scan this QR code for more info on LRADs

- Energy Weapons -

HEAT RAY

The **Active Denial System (ADS)** or **heat ray** is a directed-energy weapon that can burn skin and cause intense pain in its targets. Yes, the US military has a fucking *heat ray*. It's probably not even the craziest thing they have.

Although the ADS and similar heat ray weapons have not yet seen widespread use, the **federal government** considered using them as recently as **2020** to disperse the **George Floyd protests** which were then raging outside the White House. The only thing that stopped the feds? *The National Guard didn't have an ADS yet.*

CHARACTERISTICS

Heat rays use high-powered, high-frequency radio waves, also called **millimeter waves.** Unlike conventional microwaves, millimeter waves are **only able to penetrate the top layers of skin,** meaning most damage from an ADS is superficial. The pain experienced, however, is very real.

A beam from a heat ray can **pass through regular clothing** and burn unexposed skin. Prolonged exposure to a heat ray weapon can cause lasting, **second-degree** or even **third-degree burns.**

APPEARANCE

ADS units are usually **vehicle-mounted.** They have **large, flat reflector dishes**, usually **octagonal**, with an **emitter**, similar to satellite dishes.

Smaller, free-standing and portable ADS units are being developed and marketed directly to police departments. It's likely only a matter of time before we start seeing these deployed more widely.

COUNTERMEASURES

As heat rays operate with electromagnetic (or RF) frequencies, **most standard methods of RF shielding will also defend against an ADS.**

- **Thick clothing** helps to reduce the effectiveness of ADS weapons. ADS units are most effective against exposed skin.
- **Mylar (space blankets)** blocks and reflects RF radiation. However, its effectiveness has never been tested against an ADS.

Scan this QR code for more info on heat rays

Know your rights around Florida police.

If FL police approach and ask you a question:

- Say "***Sorry, I don't answer questions. Am I free to go?***"
  - If "*yes:*" walk away. If "*no:*" **you are being temporarily detained.**
  - At this point, refusing to identify yourself may be used as justification to arrest you, so **provide your full legal name and date of birth** when asked for ID. You are **not** required to show any other ID in Florida, **unless you were driving** when you were stopped, in which case you must show your driver license.
- Answer any other questions with "***I don't answer questions. Am I free to go now?***" and wait for the police to let you go.
- If you are arrested, **your case is strongest if you don't resist.**

Remember:

- **Cops *can* and *will* lie to you,** but **you are *not* allowed to lie to them.**
- Unless you're trying to become a martyr, **do not fight cops.**
- **Never open the door for cops.** Talk to them through the door. If they have a warrant, they'll let themselves in anyways.
- **Cops are not required to tell you what crime they think you've committed** or why they're detaining you.
- **De-escalate interactions with cops** whenever possible. Cops are fragile and will make up a reason to jail you if you argue with or shout at them.
- Cops are **barely trained** and often **don't know the law they're supposed to be enforcing.** Most cops operate off vibes and then try to find laws to justify their actions later. **Do not sign any forms a cop gives you.**
- **You can beat the rap, but you can't beat the ride.** Even if you are 100% legally in the right, you can still be *arrested*, *charged*, and *held in detention.*

*Scan this QR code to learn more on why you should **never** talk to cops*

Scan this QR code for more info on your rights regarding police in FL